

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My family has operated as an ISP since 1996 in a small rural area of Upstate NY. We have been ready and able to deploy DSL since 1998. The problem? Our local phone monopoly (Citizens Communications) won't let us. We only require the ability to lease plain unused copper wires that exist on the poles, the same type of wires that are being leased for simple alarm circuits that they will lease to anyone but us.

The Phone companies are implying they need less 'restrictions' to provide High Speed access for everyone. When really they have prevented its deployment.

The reason we got started as an ISP is because our phone company doesn't allow the nearby cities to be accessed via a local call. Many of our customers in this area have told us they were spending up to \$1000/month to connect to their 'Long Distance' Internet provider. When we got started, even though we were (are) paying triple rates compared to ISP's with competitive phone companies, the local phone company didn't seem too pleased with our presence.

Finally this year they decided to become a competitor of ours. Also, it seems that the phone company refuses to repair dirty phone line problems unless the customer orders dial-up service from them. I learned this through customers of ours that maintained both accounts and noticed connection issues with us corrected themselves AFTER they ordered dial up service from Citizens.

With all the trouble we've had staying in business due to inflated costs by the phone company, we strive to stay in business for the community. The local businesses would not have been able to expand without our presence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Myers  
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